# CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1937

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

**FOR** 

Year ending 31st December, 1937.

CREDITON:
PHILLIPS & Co., PRINTERS, "THE KYRTONIA PRESS."

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year, 1937.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 1,096; Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1937, 3,718; Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books, 1,205; Rateable Value, £17,807; Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £71.

The District is mainly agricultural. The are, however, several factories—a medicinal lozenge factory, three sweet factories, two cider factories and a dried milk factory.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS {Legiting   Legiting   Live   Li	M 19 3	F 29 0	Total 48 Birth Rate 13.71 per 3 1,000 population	
STILL BIRTHS {Leg	itimate gitimate	м 0 0	F 2 0	Total 2 Rate per 1,000 total live 0 and still births 37.7
DEATHS	M 23	F 31	Total 54	Death Rate 14:52

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence from sepsis 0 of Childbirth ... from other causes 0

Death of Infants under one year of age :— Legitimate 1; Illegitimate 0; Total 1.

All Infants per 1,000 live births—19.6; Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 28.3; Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 0
,, Diarrhea (under two years of age) 0

The birth rate for this district in 1936 was 10'67 and for England and Wales 1937 was 14 9 The death rate for England and Wales 1937 was 12'4 and the infantile death rate 58'0.

To compare our crude death rate to that of England and Wales on a sex-age basis, the rate for this area would be reduced to 10'01 which is below the average.

Of the deaths, 8 were due to cancer, 15 to heart disease, 5 to influenza and 1 to tuberculosis. Of the 54 deaths, 31 or 57% were over the age of 70 and 10 were over the age of 80.

# GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, F. Johns, M.S.I.A., Certificate R.S.I.

Professional Nursing in the home (a) General. The Crediton Sick Nursing Association provide one Nurse, paid for by subscriptions with help from the County Council.

# (b) For Infectious Diseases.—Nil.

#### MIDWIVES.

One midwife provided by the Crediton Sick Nursing Association with help from the County Council.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare—This is held weekly in the Red Cross Room in Market Street. During the year the total attendances were:—

By Mothers		921
By Infants under one year	•••	600
By Children from one year—five years	•••	482

Day Nurseries.-Nil.

School Clinics.—Held in the Red Cross Room under the County Council.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.—There are none in the district; the nearest are at Exeter.

Tuberculosis.—Cases from this District are taken to "Ivybank" Hospital, or to Hawkinoor Sanatorium, at the discretion of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Maternity (Children).-Nil..

Infectious Cases are nursed in their homes, but are removed to the Exeter Sanatorium if adequate isolation cannot be obtained at home.

Small-pox.—The Small-pox Hospital for the County is at Upton Pyne.

The other Hospitals available for the District are the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Dispensary, the Eye Infirmary and the Orthopædic Hospital at Exeter.

#### AMBULANCES.

- (a) For Infectious Cases, by arrangement with Exeter Sanatorium.
- (b) For Non-Infectious Cases, by ordinary cars, or St. John's Ambulance at Exeter and through the County Council.

#### LABORITORY WORK.

Throat Swabs, Sputum and Blood for Typhoid are examined and reported on by the Devon Connty Council Pathological Department free of cost in the case of poor people.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Urban District Council for poor people on the recommendation of the M.O.H.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

- 1. (a) Water.—The Water from Walson and George Hill is of excellent quality and supplies were maintained. A proposal is being considered to construct a reservoir near the War Memorial which is to be supplied from the borehole in the Playing Field. This could then be used in supplying the eastern end of the town. I hope this proposal will be carried through as it would be a valuable increase to the existing supply, the additional number of houses cause a great increase in the consumption of water.
- (b) Drainage and Sewerage.—The works recently constructed at Lords Meadow and the improved method of treating the effluent over the land have resulted in a great improvement in the discharge to the river. Fordton drainage continues to be unsatisfactory. I have recently reported in detail concerning this.
- 2. Rivers and Streams.—The River Creedy should not now be polluted by the discharge from Lords Meadow, but the River Yeo continues to receive the untreated sewage from Fordton.
- 3. Closet Accommodation.—There are only very few houses which have not separate closet accomodation or flushing cisterns.
- 4. *Schools.*—The sanitary conditions and water supply of the Schools are satisfactory.
- 5. Public Cleansing.—House Refuse is collected twice weekly and removed to the Council's Dump at Gunstone.

# HOUSING.

# STATISTICS FOR 1937.

1.	Inspectio	on of Dwelling Houses during the year:—	
	(1)	(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	34
		(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	52
	(2)	(a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which where inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	22
		(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	34
	(3)	Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
	(4)	Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	22
2	D 1		
2.	Notices	of Defects during the year without service of form	ormal
		Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	22
3.	Action 1	under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	(a)—	-Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:—	
	(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
	(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
		(a) By Owners	0
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	(b)—	-Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
	(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0

	(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	(2)
0	(a) By Owners	(a)
0	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	(b)
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:—	(c)
0	(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	(1)
0	(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in persuance of Demolition Orders	(2)
	(d)—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—	(d)
0	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	(1)
0	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	(2)
	using Act, 1935—Overcrowding	. Housi
4	(a)—1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	(a)
4	2. Number of families dwelling therein	
30	3. Number of persons dwelling therein	
0	(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	(b)
3	(c)—1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	(c)-
$17\frac{1}{2}$	2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	
	NSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.	INS

(a) Milk Supply—All Dairies and Cowsheds are registered and are frequently visited.

9 samples of milk were bacteriologically examined for cleanliness and 2 for tubercle bacilli.

Of the 9 sent for examination for cleanliness, 7 were satisfactory.

No tubercle bacilli was found in either of the 2 samples sent for that test.

(b) Meat Inspections.—Inspections are made at the time of slaughtering and in the shops. The Slaughter Houses and Butcher's Shops are well kept. There is no Public Slaughter House.

## CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cartle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	450	_ ap	proximate 40	1y 550	330
Number inspected	240	_	_	300	280
All diseases except Tuber- culosis. Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	_	_	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber-culosis.	1.66	_	_	_	—
Tuberculosis only. Wholecarcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	2		_	_	_
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	.83	-	_	_	_

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.				Total Cases Notified	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	
Small Pox Scarlet Fever Diphtheria	•••	•••		Nil 8 Nil	Nil 4 Nil	Nil ,,	
Enteric Group Puerperal Fever	•••			"	77	1,	
Puerperal Pyrexia Infantile Paralysis	•••	•••		1	ï	) 1 ) 1	

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pu'monary	
	M	F	M	F	М	F	M	F
0 1 5 10 20 25 45 65 and upwards	2 2		1	1	1			
Totals	4	Nil	1	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD F. L. HUGO, M.O.H.